

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCI-06 FEAE-00 AEC-11 COA-02 INT-08

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /161 W

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R 211150Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6308

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, DM

SUBJECT: OAU SUMMIT REACTIONS IN DAHOMEY

REF: (A) STATE 129529

(B) MOGADISCIO 0934

1. DAHO-EXPRESS OF JUNE 17 CARRIED REPORT OF OAU SUMMIT, INCLUDING PRESIDENT KEREKOU'S REACTIONS. AMONG HIGHLIGHTS WERE (A) THE ASSEMBLY "ACCEPTED" \$200 MILLION FUND SET UP BY ARAB OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS AND ASKED THAT IT BE ADMINISTERED BY AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. ASSEMBLY THEN CALLED ON ALL OTHER AFRICAN PRODUCERS TO CONTRIBUTE; HOWEVER, ARTICLE REPORTED ONLY CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE HAS SO FAR AGREED TO DO SO: (B) ARTICLE QUOTED MOKTAR OULD DADDAH OF MAURITANIA AS HALING NEW SECGEN ETEKI'S ELECTION AS REINFORCING OAU RATHER THAN DIVIDING IT SINCE IT WAS FIRST
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UNANIMOUS VOTE IN HISTORY (ARTICLE DID NOTE ETEKI ELECTED

ON 18TH ROUND). KEREKOU SAID "FAR FROM BEING FAILURE, IT IS RATHER A DEMONSTRATION OF TRUE DEMOCRACY"; (C) KEREKOU DENOUNCED THOSE CALLING CONFERENCE FAILURE FOR NOT UNITING FACTIONS IN ANGOLA LIBERATION MOVEMENT. SINCE THIS WAS NOT ON OFFICIAL AGENDA, KEREKOU FELT SETBACK COULD NOT MAKE ENTIRE CONFERENCE FAILURE.

2. ALSO MENTIONED WERE USUAL AVOWALS OF SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND FOR PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

3. APART FROM MEETING ITSELF, KEREKOU SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY SOMALIAN REVOLUTIONARY MODEL, WITH ITS ORGANIZATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD CELLS. HE HOPED TO PUT INTO PRACTICE HERE SOME SOMALIAN IDEAS, STARTING WITH REVITALIZATION OF DAHOMEAN MONTHLY CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN INTO LOCAL ROAD REPAIR PROJECT.

4. ANOTHER INDIRECT RESULT OAU SUMMIT WAS REVIVAL OF DEBATE WHETHER DAHOMEY SHOULD RE-OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN JUNE 20 DAHO-EXPRESS TITLED "AFRICA IS NOT FOR SALE" CASTIGATED KENYAN PARLIAMENT FOR CONSIDERING RE-OPENING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE OF "LACK OF REGARD VIS-A-VIS AFRICA NATIONS." ARTICLE SAID (A) AFRICAN NATIONS SHOULD NOT TIE THEIR MORALS TO OFFERS OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE AND (B) THAT SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT FOLLOWS LOGICALLY FROM AFRICAN NATIONS' SUPPORT SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

COMMENT: FRONT-PAGE PLACEMENT OF ARTICLE PLUS ITS BROADCAST ON RADIO ARE SIGNS THAT MRGD PROBABLY AGREES WITH ARTICLE'S OPINIONS. MRGD CERTAINLY NOT PLEASED WITH ARAB LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS TO AFRICAN OIL PROBLEMS AT OAU SUMMIT. ARTICLE MAY HAVE BEEN MEANT AS WARNING TO ARABS, BUT ALSO AIMED AT DOMESTIC CRITICS WHO NOW HAVE CONCRETE ISSUE UPON WHICH TO QUESTION WISDOM OF DAHOMEAN BREAK WITH ISRAEL WITHOUT COMPENSATING ADVANTAGE. MCNAMARA

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